

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

Group I, Claims 1-7, drawn to a silica glass crucible.

Group II, Claims 8-11 drawn to a process of making a crucible.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-7 drawn to a silica glass crucible.

The Examiner has categorized inventions II and I as process of making and product made and indicated that Group I can be made by a materially different process such as by forming grooves in the surface of the wall by laser, blade cutting or grinding instead of by sandblast treatment.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups or shown that a burden exists in searching all of the claims. While the Examiner has noted several alternate ways of forming fine grooves in the outer surface of the glass crucible, Applicants point out that both Groups I and II require the formation of the grooves by a sandblast treatment in a hydrofluoro acid etching on the outer surface. Therefore since these process limitations are identical in both Groups, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn.

Applicants further respectfully request that should the Group I product Claims be found allowable, that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement between inventions I and II and rejoin the process claims of Group II in accordance with the rejoinder procedures of M.P.E.P. § 821.04.

Moreover, the M.P.E.P. § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Accordingly and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain a Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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